



UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Congregational, Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

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OUR VISION: "Touching lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ."

CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS



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PRAY



- **Rev. Dr. Clinton Smith (UWI)**
- **Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler**
- Rev. Carlington Keen*
- **Mrs. Doris Longmore**
- **Rev. Astor Carlyle and his family**

A question perhaps too often posed in society is: "What is the Church doing?" In most cases, it is a question posed with the knowing expectation of the answer... "Not much... or nothing of significance."

Far too frequently, we who should be more aware of the appropriate response, are unable to provide the evidence of a long history of demonstrated foresight and commitment to community welfare and a practical demonstration of evangelism and caring outreach, that has resulted in the empowerment of God's people here in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

The Church's work in education is one such example of a legacy of which we should be proud and that should be lifted up, as it will be in this week's 'UPDATE.'

DID YOU KNOW...

In the words of former Education Commission Chairman **Paul Miller**, "Our Lord has assigned us **two (2) Tertiary institutions, Nine High Schools and eight Preparatory Schools.** We are also responsible for **over fifty (50) Primary**

Schools and about fifty (50) Basic Schools/Early Childhood Development Centers.

The Cayman Prep and High School I/GCSE and A-Level results were excellent and one student, Ethan Whittaker, a member of Elmslie Memorial was accepted to pursue a degree in physics at Princeton University in the fall of 2016.

It would be fair to state that all our schools are doing significantly better than the average with very pleasing results all round.

Among similar Tertiary institutions, **Knox Community College continues to excel**, constantly improving on its offerings and establishing and maintaining very high standards. The most recent celebration was around the results of the **Nursing examinations, offered in partnership with the University of the West Indies.**

We continue to celebrate the academic accomplishments of the International University of the Caribbean (**IUC**) while seeking a path to financial viability. **We celebrate their achievement of the "University" designation** after years of organizational effort led by its president, Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans.

For each of our entities, we have a responsible Board of Management. **We have appointed new chairpersons and board members for our High Schools, Preparatory, Primary and Basic schools.**

We have also deployed **chaplains** to ensure the best possible spiritual development of the nation's children in our custody. Yet, we must do more.

A MATTER FOR CONCERN?

While we celebrate the achievement of the UCJCI on a whole for this tremendous work that the Church does in monitoring, managing, and providing spiritual guidance, we must remain concerned that; "Over the past three years, **five** of our primary school have been **closed because of insufficient students** and consequently falling below viability and one has been transformed into becoming the Grade 7 classrooms of the St. Mary Technical High School. **Preston Primary, in St. Mary, was also closed in 2016.**

For the Church's approach to this and other issues, see overpage.



70:

Rev. Norlene Jackson

June 2

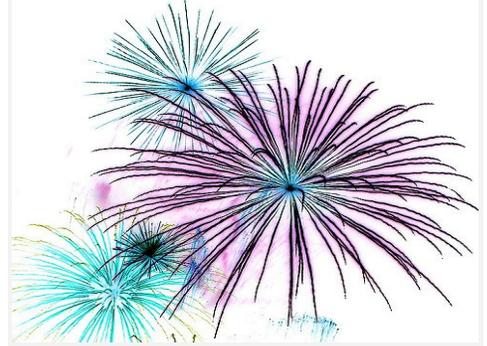
Rev. Margaret Downer-Messias

June 5

Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte

June 6

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!



We are proud as a member church to join in the celebration of the **40th Anniversary of the Council for World Mission** in 2017. Plans are in place to commemorate the event with a special service on **16th July**, which is designated **CWM Sunday**. This service will be held at St. Paul's United Church, Montego Bay starting at 4pm. **Rev. Barbara Bridges**, CWM

Board member, will be the guest speaker at the Service.

We are inviting all persons who have served CWM or attended a CWM event (TIM, Face to Face, Face the Facts, Mission Partner, Team Visits etc) to make a special effort to attend.

See you there!

EDUCATION COMMISSION: TAKING AN ECUMENICAL APPROACH

Our United Church has wisely decided to **adopt an ecumenical approach to the addressing of inherent issues that may impact negatively on the education of our children, and to proactively address issues that could negate the spiritual focus of the church.**

"Accordingly, through the **Ecumenical Education Committee (EEC)**, chaired by **Archbishop Emeritus Donald Reece**, a gathering of the nine denominations which own public high schools (Anglicans, Associated Gospel Assemblies, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Church of God, Moravians, Methodists, Society of Friends and the United Church) and the representative of the trust schools, **have been able to identify common challenges and craft useful strategies in advancing our interest in great learning outcomes for our students.**

Our Lord has blessed our endeavors.

The sharing of best practices is completely established across all denominations and we have commenced a regular gathering of all our high school principals to encourage an interdenominational Christian principals'

fraternity, one in which ideas are regularly shared and problems addressed.

It is through this body that we, as a church, **dialogue with the state through the Ministry of Education (MoE)**. It has been our practice to hold quarterly meetings with the Minister of Education and his senior staff.

The EEC, also contributes to the general running of the national education enterprise by serving on the various committees of the **MoE** and has been involved in the development of the emerging new **Code of Education**.

We remain vigilant in protecting our interest in providing high quality, **Christian inspired education** addressing a definite thrust in our society to move away from the Christian basis of our moral foundations and to replace it with neo-liberal values.

The battle is joined. We have recently embarked on a major task of developing a **Christian Ethics curriculum which is intended for our High Schools, led by the Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle and currently Rev. Bryan Stone and Mrs. Tamara Steele-Rowe as members,"** said Mr. Miller in his report.

Meadowbrook United Church

Presents

"A Feast of Music"

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF
AMBASSADOR ALOUN NDOMBET-ASSAMBA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COK SODALITY CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT UNION LTD

Featuring: **LORI BURNETT** - SOPRANO* **JUDY MOWATT** - INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED REGGAE GOSPEL ARTISTE* **MARIA MYRIE*** **DESI JONES QUARTET*** **PAULETTE BELLAMY*** **JON WILLIAMS**

CAMEO APPEARANCE

Composed by: **EVAN THOMPSON**

**SUNDAY JUNE 4, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m. at
THE JAMAICA PEGASUS HOTEL**

IN SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH'S EDUCATION OUTREACH MINISTRY



Send comments and news about your congregation to ucjciupdate@gmail.com